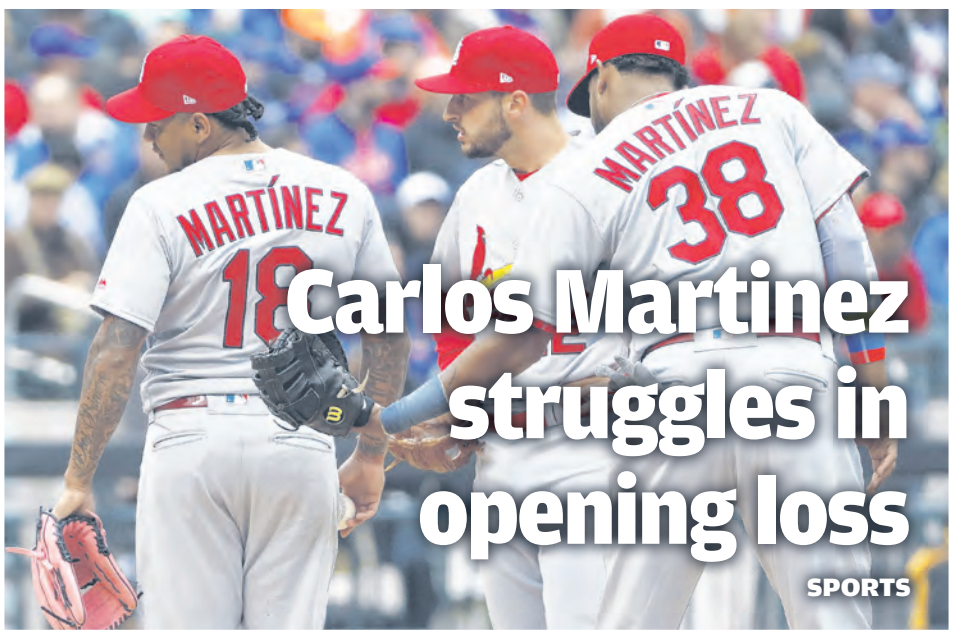
All-Star closer to join Cards

SPORTS



Carlos Martinez struggles in opening loss

SPORTS

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ELECTION POLARIZATION

MARYLAND HEIGHTS

Mayoral race defies city's usual mundane politics

BY LEAH THORSEN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

MARYLAND HEIGHTS • Campaigns here are usually pretty mundane.

"It's not the blood sport it is in other places," Maryland Heights City Attorney Howard Paperner says of local politics in this northwest St. Louis County municipality.

But the lead-up to Tuesday's election has included aspects fitting of such a description. The mayor of 16 years, Mike Moeller, is facing his first-ever challenge for the job from opponents Mary Nichols, a state representative, and Sudhir Rathod.

And the city's voters who live in the Parkway School District will help decide a school board race with a candidate who has identified herself as a Confederate.

Moeller

Nichols

Rathod

In the nonpartisan mayoral race, Nichols has sent out mailings with cartoonish illustrations accusing Moeller of overspending on travel. Moeller, meanwhile, has posted on a website salacious court documents filed by the ex-wife of Nichols' husband and by a past political opponent.

A campaign flyer from Nichols, a former City Council member and Democratic state representative since 2011 who will be term-limited out of office at the end of this legislative session, ticks off a list of dollar amounts she accuses Moeller of spending at eight out-of-town conferences, which Nichols dubs as city-paid vacations.

See MAYOR • Page A5

PARKWAY SCHOOL BOARD

Dark money group takes aim at school board race

BY KRISTEN TAKETA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

A secretive group that calls itself an advocate for taxpayer accountability and transparency is turning what's supposed to be a nonpartisan Parkway School Board election focused on students and education into a politicized campaign.

Moreover, it's essentially impossible to learn how much money the group is spending on this election. It is organized under the same 501(c)(4) nonprofit model that Gov. Eric Greitens and other politicians have used to benefit from dark money. Under that model, a corporation does not have to disclose its donors or how much money it raises or spends.

This group, called Advocates for Educating Taxpayer Accountability, also known as Missouri AETA, says it

See PARKWAY • Page A5

A flyer from an unnamed source endorses candidates Jeanie Ames and Jonathan Taylor but lacks information required by state law about who's paying for the flyer.

THE CELEBRITY LIFESTYLE

PHOTOS BY DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com

Volunteer Nikole Ventimiglia, of St. Louis, gives Chico a kiss before visitors arrive on Sunday. Chico is one of five surviving steers that escaped a slaughterhouse last year and now live a life of leisure at The Gentle Barn.

Chico busts through an iron fence on March 30, 2017, at the Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Louis.

Life is good for renegades formerly slated for slaughter

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON COUNTY • For St. Louis' famous renegade cattle, freedom is sweet.

It means grazing on 15 acres of rolling hills. It's slimming down on hand-delivered low-calorie hay and then cheating on their diets with treats flavored like apple pie. It's getting petted by a Girl Scout and having their faces printed on the sides of mugs.

The cattle burst through a slaughterhouse door and into local fame one year ago this week. On March 30, 2017, six steers

See CHICO • Page A4

Judge tosses out lawsuit over grass requirement

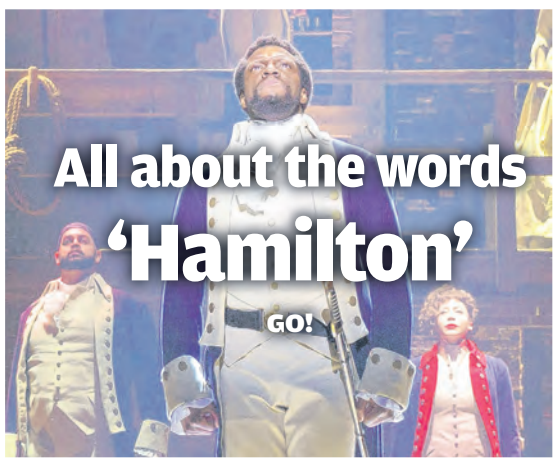
BY ROBERT PATRICK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • A federal judge here Wednesday tossed out a lawsuit filed by a St. Peters woman who is allergic to grass and who challenged a city ordinance requiring her to plant it.

U.S. District Judge John Ross' 17-page ruling said Janice and Carl Duffner "failed to identify a fundamental right that is restricted by the Turf Grass Ordinance."

After unsuccessfully suing in state court, the Duffners filed their federal suit in 2016, claiming the ordinance was "unnecessary for the advancement of any compelling or permissible state objective" and "imposes a permanent obligation on the

See GRASS • Page A4



State House sends budget to Senate • **A5**

Disposal of e-waste still an issue • **B1**

Blues aim to maintain win streak • **C1**

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